



**File Code:** 2210

**Date:** March 30, 2015

Jeff Hunnewill  
195 Hunnewill Lane  
Wellington, NV  
89444

Dear Jeff

The following letter will document your meeting with Aaron Coogan on March 26, 2015 and serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2015 grazing season.

### PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of your permitted use which expires on 12/31/2015:

LIVESTOCK			PERIOD OF USE		GRAZING ALLOTMENT
NUMBER	KIND	CLASS	FROM	TO	
108	Cattle	Cow/calf	5/25	6/23	Hunnewill Hills C&H*
150	Cattle	Cow/calf	6/22	9/11	Buckeye C&H**
45	Cattle	Cow/calf	7/3	9/11	Buckeye C&H**
150	Cattle	Cow/calf	7/16	9/15	Eagle Creek C&H***
*Hunnewill Hills C&H is operated under a 4 year rest-rotation system with an on/off provision (108 on / 12 off)					
**Buckeye C&H is permitted with an on/off provision (195 on / 80 off)					
***Eagle Creek C&H is operated under a 4 year rest-rotation system					

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

### AUTHORIZED USE

**Buckeye C&H: A total of 160 c/c pairs are authorized this year from June 22<sup>nd</sup> until September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The allotment will be in non-use for resource protection for 115 head or 42% of permitted numbers.

Pattern of use on the Buckeye C&H allotment starts in unit two working up to unit four and finally unit one on your way out. It will be important to manage cattle distribution to avoid overuse of riparian sites late in the season. Cattle entering the Buckeye C&H allotment will use the trail on the north side of Buckeye creek. Using this area will reduce risks to the public who use the Buckeye campground.

**Eagle Creek C&H: A total of 120 c/c pairs are authorized this year from July 16 to September 15.**

The allotment will be in non-use for resource protection for 30 head or %20 of permitted numbers. This is year 2 of the grazing system. 2017 is the next scheduled rest year for the allotment.



**Hunewill Hills C&H: A total of 120 c/c pairs are authorized this year from June 21 to July 15.**

Turnout is authorized later than permitted this year to ensure range readiness. This is Year 1 of the grazing system. Rotation will be as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Cove Unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Center Unit, 3<sup>rd</sup> Point Unit, Rest - Hogan Unit.

**ALLOWABLE USE**

The allowable use standards for the Buckeye C&H, Eagle Creek C&H and Hunewill Hills C&H are listed below. It is your responsibility to monitor utilization levels and to move your livestock to the next unit planned for use or off the allotment when the standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Aaron from my office and he will assist you. Cattle removed from a unit after proper use has been reached are not to be allowed to return to the unit. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards.

**Riparian sites:**

Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.

In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent (or minimum six-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.

In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Eagle Creek C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels specified above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at **55 percent** use of key herbaceous species and **25 percent** use of key shrub species.

**Upland sites on Buckeye C&H and Hunewill Hills C&H:**

- 55% use of the current year's growth of herbaceous species
- 50% use of the current year's growth of shrub species such as bitterbrush

**Upland and Aspen sites on Eagle Creek C&H:**

- 45% use of the current year's growth of grass or forb species
- 40% use of the current year's growth of shrub species



Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotments, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian areas.

## MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Allotment maps and management requirements for those allotments you are permitted to graze have been provided to you.

The following brands are authorized under your term grazing permit:



Range improvements listed under part three in your term permit must be maintained before livestock enter the allotments. The maintenance standards, also listed in part three of your permit, must be followed when maintaining improvements. Range improvements must be maintained even when there is non-use on an allotment; for whatever reason.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water, roads, and trails. If there are specific areas that require salt placement outside these guidelines, you must obtain approval from this office prior to salting. Haul dead livestock at least 100 yards from roads, trails, and water. All garbage and debris associated with managing your livestock on Forest Service allotments must be removed from the National Forest.

If you or your employees spot a wildfire on any of your allotments, report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at (775) 883-5995. As a reminder, if the Bridgeport Ranger District enters into fire restrictions during 2015, this restriction applies to your operation as well.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. A Noxious Weed Free Hay order has been implemented on our Forest. This requires any hay that is brought onto the National Forest must be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest. Pelletized feed is not affected by this order.

## REPORTING

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Reporting requirements are part of the terms and conditions listed in your permit. Failure to report actual use dates and numbers may result in **NON-COMPLIANCE**. Please return the forms for by **November 30, 2015**.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT

The grazing fees for 2015 are \$1.69 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay their grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting **a minimum of 35 days prior** to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season. For several years now,



my staff has been reminding permittees of this requirement, verbally and in writing. I can no longer allow for anything less than the 35 day requirement.

Approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2015 grazing season, you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal).

If you have any questions or comments regarding management of these three allotments, please call Aaron Coogan at 760-932-5852. Thank you for your continued interest in improving the resources on National Forest lands.

Sincerely,

*/Jeff Ulrich/*

JEFF ULRICH  
District Ranger

Encl: Allotment Maintenance and Actual Use forms

